Small Scale Sleeper Manufacturing Industries

1076. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of small scale sleeper manufacturing industries with huge work force, operating in backward tribal areas like Santhal Pargana of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, etc. are running on the Railway Ministry's orders;

(b) whether a large number of such factories have been starved of orders for the last two years, landing a huge work force on brink of starvation;

(c) how far these factories have worked below capacity during these years; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure regular orders to keep these factories going?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir, 68 (sixty-eight) concrete sleeper manufacturing factories are set up in different parts of the country including Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

(b) to (d) Railways place orders on these firms based on competitive offers received, requirement of sleepers and availability of funds.

Change in Arrival/Departure Points of Mussorie Express and Ranikhet Express

†1077. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of people belonging to Garhwal are working in Mumbai;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Delhi bound trains from Mumbai arrive at New Delhi Railway Station, while Mussorie Express and Ranikhet Express trains for Garhwal areas leave from Old Delhi Railway Station; and

(c) if so, whether Government would ensure arrival of any of above trains at Old Delhi Railway Station, instead of New Delhi Railway Station, or the departure of Mussorie Express or Ranikhet Express from New Delhi,

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

instead of Old Delhi Railway Station; if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

© No, Sir. It has not been found feasible due to operational constraints.

Punishment to Railway Officials for Accidents

†1078. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway officials responsible for rail accidents between 1994 and 1998 have been punished;

(b) if so, the category-wise total number of officials found guilty;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the officials found guilty were awarded varying punishments; and

(d) if so, the details of punishment given to each of them, together with the category-wise number of punished officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Delay in Arrival of Trains

†l079. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains, zone-wise, in the country which reached their destination half-an-hour behind schedule in 1998-99 upto 31^{s1} October, 1999; and

(b) whether any scheme to extend some facilities to passengers, except, expressing regret for delayed running of trains for several hours, is under consideration; if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.